AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing:

1. (Withdrawn) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism and a number of processing stations arranged in succession in the advancement direction, wherein at least one of the processing stations for the processing of a number of separate objects disposable at the processing station in object receiving positions lying essentially perpendicular to the advancement direction in spaced next to one another condition, which processing station is equipped with a number of work tools corresponding in number to the number of object receiving positions, and wherein in said at least one processing station individual work tools are provided and/or groups of work tools are provided with the number of work tools of each group being smaller than the number of the object receiving positions of the processing station, and wherein the individual work tools and/or groups of work tools are arranged as functionally separate units, so that during the operation of the processing station bending forces applied to each work tool carrier are essentially applied only to the associated individual unit.

2. (Currently Amended) A processing device comprising:

an advancing mechanism; and

a ~~number~~ plurality of processing stations arranged in succession along ~~the~~ an advancement direction,

wherein the advancing ~~device~~ mechanism is ~~one for advancing~~ adapted to advance a single row succession of objects along the advancement direction and comprises at least two conveyor belts arranged parallel to one another and driven in synchronism, wherein a plurality of individual object receivers are formed on the conveyor belts by opposed holding means, and

wherein each of the plurality of processing stations ~~are each~~ is equipped ~~for the processing of~~ to process a single object at a time.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The processing device according to claim 2, ~~further characterized in that it is designed for the production of~~ wherein the device is adapted to produce metal covers with tear-off foils, and

wherein at least one of the plurality of processing stations is a stamping processing station ~~with~~ comprising an upper work tool and a lower work tool for the stamping of ~~a~~ at least one hole.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The processing device according to claim 3, ~~further characterized in that one of said~~ wherein at least one of the plurality of processing stations is a drawing processing station for drawing the edge of the at least one ~~stamped~~ hole, and

wherein at least one of said processing stations is a sealing processing station for applying a tear-off foil over the at least one hole.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The processing device according to claim 4, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the sealing processing station is ~~a combined processing station which stamps~~ adapted to stamp at least one ~~a~~ tear-off cover from a foil and ~~places~~ place the at least one tear-off cover ~~it~~ over the at least one hole.

6. (Withdrawn) A processing device according to claim 4 further characterized in that the sealing processing station is one equipped to apply a previously stamped out tear-off cover.

7. (Withdrawn) A processing device according to claim 6 further characterized in that the sealing processing station is connected in series with a stamping out station for the tear-off cover or in series with a station for taking a tear-off cover from a stack of such covers.

8. (Withdrawn) A processing station according to claim 7 further characterized in that the sealing processing station is connected in series with an adhesion station and/or a pre-warming station.

9. (Currently Amended) A processing device according to claim 2, wherein at least ~~further characterized in that~~ one of the plurality of processing stations ~~has~~ is a coining station for coining at least one ~~the~~ tear-off foil, and

wherein at least one of the processing station is a bending station for bending an ~~the~~ edge of at least one ~~the~~ hole~~, especially a combined coining and bending station~~.

10. (Withdrawn) A processing device according to claim 1, further characterized by a drive for the units which is a common drive for all of the units, or which drive is constructed as a number if separate drives for the units.

11. (Withdrawn) A processing device according to claim 1, further characterized in that each unit has its own drive.

12. (Withdrawn) A processing device according to claim 1 further characterized in that in the advancement direction the device is separated into at least 2 separate arrangements, especially into a first arrangement containing the stamping processing station and a drawing processing station, and a second arrangement containing a sealing processing station and a coining processing station.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The processing device according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 2, ~~further characterized in that it is a processing device for the production of~~ wherein the processing device is adapted to produce covers with tear-off foils, and

wherein the plurality of processing devices comprises ~~includes~~ at least one stamping processing station and at least one sealing processing station which are connected by way of the advancing mechanism ~~arrangement~~.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The processing device according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 2, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the holding means are magnetic holding means.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A processing device comprising:

an advancing mechanism; and

a ~~number~~ plurality of processing stations arranged in succession along an ~~the~~ advancement direction,

wherein the advancing ~~device~~ mechanism is ~~one for advancing~~ adapted to advance a single row succession of objects along the advancement direction, ~~and~~

wherein each of the plurality of processing stations ~~are each~~ is equipped ~~for the processing of~~ to process a single object at a time,

~~such that individual objects are transportable by an advancing arrangement in a row in succession to a subsequent processing station in the advancement direction, and are there capable of being processed in an object receiving position,~~

wherein the advancing mechanism ~~arrangement is comprised of~~ comprises at least two conveyor belts arranged parallel to one another and driven in synchronism,

wherein a plurality of ~~on which conveyor belts~~ individual object receivers are formed on the conveyor belts by opposed holding means, ~~and~~

wherein the device is adapted to produce ~~processing stations are each designed for the production of~~ metal covers with tear-off foils, ~~and~~

wherein at least one of the plurality of processing stations is a stamping processing station ~~with~~ comprising an upper work tool and a lower work tool for the stamping of ~~a~~ at least one hole, said stamping processing station further comprising an upper work tool carrier and a plurality of columns for supporting the upper work tool;

wherein at least one of the plurality of processing stations is a drawing processing station for drawing the edge of the at least one hole, and

wherein at least one of the plurality of processing stations is a sealing processing station for applying a tear-off foil over the at least one hole.

19. (Withdrawn) A processing device comprising: an advancing mechanism; and a number of processing stations arranged in succession in the advancement direction, wherein at least one of the processing stations for the processing of a number of separate objects disposable at the processing station in object receiving positions lying essentially perpendicular to the advancement direction in spaced next to one another condition, which processing station is equipped with a number of work tools corresponding in number to the number of object receiving positions, and wherein in said at least one processing station individual work tools are provided and/or groups of work tools are provided with the number of work tools of each group being smaller than the number of the object receiving positions of the processing station, and wherein the individual work tools and/or groups of work tools are arranged as functionally separate units, so that during the operation of the processing station bending forces applied to each

work tool carrier are essentially applied only to the associated individual unit, at least one of the processing stations being designed for the production of metal covers with tear-off foils and at least one of the processing stations being a stamping processing station with an upper work tool and a lower work tool for the stamping of a hole, and wherein individual objects are transportable by an advancing arrangement in a row in succession to a subsequent processing station in the advancement direction, and are there capable of being processed in an object receiving position, wherein the advancing arrangement is comprised of two conveyor belts arranged parallel to one another and driven in synchronism, on which conveyor belts individual object receivers are formed by opposed holding means.